North Eastern Council in Assam

2355. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 years ago Government had established North Eastern Council in Guwahati in Assam State;

(b) if so, what are the basic objectives in establishing the Council;

(c) whether any review has been made to know how far the objectives have been achieved; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established in 1972 at Shillong under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.

(b) The basic objectives and functions for which the NEC was set up has been inter alia to advise and make recommendations and also implement projects which are regional and inter-state in nature in the fields of economic and social planning, transport and communications, power etc. for overall balanced development and security of the North Eastern area.

(c) and (d) The North Eastern Council is a high level statutory body with the Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States as its Members. The Council reviews its activities in its meetings. The Council has held 38 meetings since its inception in August, 1972. The Council has funded schemes for over Rs. 2197 crores since its inception for construction and improvement of roads, hydro-electric projects and transmission lines, human resource development, agriculture and social and community services etc.

Recognising the services of Freedom Fighters

2356. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters as are yet pending to be recognised by Government for their services rendered during the freedom struggle:

(b) by when their requests would be considered: and

(c) the reasons for not considering their requests so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) As a token of the Nation's gratitude and in recognition of the services rendered by the freedom fighters during the freedom struggle, the Central Government grants the freedom fighters' pension to the persons who fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down under the Swatantraia Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. All timely claims for grant of pension have been considered at least once and appropriate decisions already communicated to the applicants. Aggrieved with the decision of the Government regarding rejection of claims, the applicants keep on sending review petitions/representations. If the applicants furnish some additional acceptable documentary evidence along with such review petitions, such cases are reconsidered and pension sanctioned. As on 30-11-1994, only 17 fresh claims received recently were pending. While every possible effort is made to communicate the decision to the applicants on their claims in the shortest possible time, receipt and disposal of claims for pension even after the out of date being a continuous process, no definite time frame can be laid down for disposal of claims for pension.

Report of Human Rights Watch Group

2357. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International "Human Rights Watch Group" has recently observed the militants and their supports in Jammu and Kashmir of grave violation of international humanitarian law by killing Government servants, civilians, members of minority community and using religious places for militant activities, as per the newsitem in the Hindustan Times, dated 23rd November 1994, entitled: "Human Rights Group Indicts J & K Militants, for violations";

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Human Rights Watch/Asia, in its report titled "INDIA: ARMS AND ABUSES IN INDIAN PUNJAB AND KASHMIR" has observed, inter-alia, that diffusion of advanced small arms and weapons to the militants by the Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) through the "Afghan Pipeline" has seriously affected the human rights situation in Punjab and Kashmir. It has further observed that most of these weapons transferred by Pakistan to Afghan Mujahideen have resurfaced in the hands of militants in Punjab and Kashmir which has led to serious violations of international laws of war including direct attacks on unarmed civilians, indiscriminate attacks, summary executions and kidnappings.

(c) The Government have consistently been bringing to the notice of international

community, the human rights abuses being carried out by the armed terrorists at the behest of Pakistan. The above mentioned report has only corroborated our assertions. The said report is, therefore, being utilised in various international fora as a further evidence of Pakistan's involvement in aiding and abetting terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir leading to large scale human rights abuses.

स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के आश्रितों को छूट

2358. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार स्वतंत्रता सेनानी पेंशन भोगियों के आश्रितों हेतु रोजगार में आरक्षण/छूट देने की योजना पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी०एम० सईद) :

(क) से (ग) स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के आश्रितों को केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधीन रोजगार प्रदान करने के प्रस्ताव पर, केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विचार किया गया है । यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि उन्हें रोजगार प्रदान करने का मसला राज्य सरकारों के विवेक पर छोड़ दिया जाए । तदनुसार, राज्य सरकारों को नवम्बर, 1988 में लिख दिया गया था ।

Black Mailing of Girls

2359. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent rising trends of gang-rapes of girls under threats and terror of blackmail in Delhi and elsewhere in the country ;

(b) if so, the number and details of such cases that have come to Government's notice in Delhi and other States and Union Territories during the current year 1994; and

(c) whether Government have had under consideration, any proposal to protect the women and girl victims of blackmail whose photographs are taken in promiscuous posture intoxication influence of drugs or threat to life or otherwise, and subjected to blackmail and forced into sileat rape or gang-rape and even flesh trade, if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the number of cases of gang-rapes reported in the country (State/Union Territory-wise) during the current year 1994 is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) The registration investigation, detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against women is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Government of India have initiated a number of measures to check such crimes. The Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973) and the Indian Evidence Act (1872) have been amended to deal with such crime. Instructions/guidelines have also been issued from time to time to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crime against women. Besides the media is being used to project women in positive terms. Awareness generation camps are being organised. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) programme and female literacy programmes are some of the other steps being taken to improve the status of women. A special Unit for Crime Against Women was set up in Delhi in 1983 which is headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police to look into such incidents of Crime. Apart from this, Women Cell has been set up in each District under Women Inspector with sufficient number of Women Police Officer/staff to inquire into complaints of women who are victims of various offences.

Statement

Incidence of Gang-rape during 1994 (*State & UT-wise*)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Incidence	Remarks (Figures are up to Month of)
1	2	3	4
STATES :			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37	September
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	September
3.	Assam	5	June
4.	Bihar	0	February
5.	Goa	0	September
6.	Gujarat	1	June